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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Budd et al. Attorney Docket No.: 2317.001A
Serial No.: 10/829,303 Group Art Unit: 1644
Filed: April 21, 2004 Examiner: Belyavskyi, M. A.
Title: CASPASE INHIBITORS FOR INHIBITING BLOOD CELL PROLIFERATION
AND FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 8, 2004


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Date of Signature: November 8, 2004

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to Restriction Requirement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.142

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 9, 2004, in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. The one-month period for response expires on October 9, 2004; however, in view of a Request for a one-month extension of time and fee therefor enclosed herewith, this response is timely filed.

Claims 1-21 were presented at the time of filing and are currently pending in the application. The Action of September 9, 2004 requires election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 among five groups of claims:

Group I (claims 1-4, 7, 9-10), drawn to a method of suppressing the immune system comprising administering an unmodified caspase-8 inhibitor, classified in Class 424, subclass 184.1;

Group II (claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8), drawn to a method of suppressing the immune system comprising administering a modified caspase-8 inhibitor, classified in Class 424, subclass 184.1;

Group III (claims 11-14, 17 and 19-20) drawn to a method of treating a tumor disease comprising administering an unmodified caspase-8 inhibitor, classified in Class 424, 184.1;


Group IV (claims 11-13, 15-16 and 18) drawn to a method of treating a tumor disease comprising administering a modified caspase-8 inhibitor, classified in Class 424, subclass 184.1; and

Group V (claim 21) drawn to a method of inhibiting the proliferation of peripheral blood lymphocytes comprising administering a caspase-8 inhibitor, classified in Class 424, subclass 184.1.

Applicants hereby elect the claim of Group V (claim 21).

Should any questions arise in connection with this Application, Applicants' Attorney can be reached at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: November 8, 2004

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